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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--24 AUGUST 1963

1. SOUTH VIETNAM:

A. WE CANNOT DETERMINE AS YET WHO IS CALLING THE SHOTS IN SAIGON--DIEM OR THE NHUS.

B. GENERAL DON TOLD A US OBSERVER THAT DIEM IS MAKING THE DECISIONS, BUT THAT HE IS ACTING THROUGH NHU.

C. NHU HAS BEEN GIVEN CREDIT

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AS THE PRIME MOVER IN THE CRACKDOWN ON THE BUDDHISTS AND THE IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW.

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D. GENERAL DON ALSO STATED THAT THE PALACE IS ISSUING ORDERS DIRECTLY TO THE SAIGON COMMANDER GENERAL DINH AND TO THE SPECIAL FORCES COMMANDER COLONEL TUNG RATHER THAN THROUGH HIMSELF AS TOP COMMANDER.

E. AMBASSADOR LODGE THINKS--AND GENERAL DON TENDS TO CONFIRM THIS--THE MILITARY IS NOT AT PRESENT A MONOLITHIC STRUCTURE AND WARNS OF SERIOUS FIGHTING BETWEEN COMPETING MILITARY ELEMENTS IF THE MILITARY SHOULD DECIDE ON A COUP.

F. PEOPLE RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION FROM GENERAL DON'S STATEMENTS THAT THE CURRENT UNSTABLE SITUATION MAY BE THE FIRST OF SEVERAL AS YET UNREVEALED PHASES.

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2. MALAYSIA:

A. PRIME MINISTER LEE OF SINGAPORE AND THE TWO DESIGNATED LEADERS OF NORTH BORNEO AND SARAWAK ARE FED UP WITH MALAYA'S PRIME MINISTER RAHMAN BECAUSE THEY FEEL HE HAS BEEN TOO ACCOMMODATING TO SUKARNO.

B. LEE IS THREATENING TO DECLARE SINGAPORE'S INDEPENDENCE ON 31 AUGUST REGARDLESS OF MALAYSIA, AND THE NORTH BORNEO AND SARAWAK LEADERS MAY TAKE SOMEWHAT SIMILAR STEPS AT THE SAME TIME.

C. BRITISH COLONIAL SECRETARY SANDYS IS EN ROUTE TO MALAYA FOR TALKS IN AN ATTEMPT TO HEAD OFF A MAJOR CRISIS.

D. U THANT HAS INSTRUCTED THE UN SURVEY MISSION TO PROCEED TODAY, HOPING THAT ALL OBSERVERS--
[REDACTED] EIGHT FROM EACH COUNTRY--WILL BE PRESENT.

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3. IRAQ-KURDS:

A. ALTHOUGH BAGHDAD'S OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE KURDS HAS BEEN MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN THE QASIM REGIME'S PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS, IT HAS NOT YET BROKEN THE KURDISH RESISTANCE.

B. ONLY SIX WEEKS OF WEATHER SUITABLE FOR CAMPAIGNING REHAIN AND BARZANI HAS THUS FAR BEEN ABLE TO AVOID A PITCHED BATTLE.

C. THE PRESSURE ON BARZANI AND THE WAVERING LOYALTY OF INCREASING NUMBERS OF VILLAGE CHIEFTAINS HAVE LED HIM

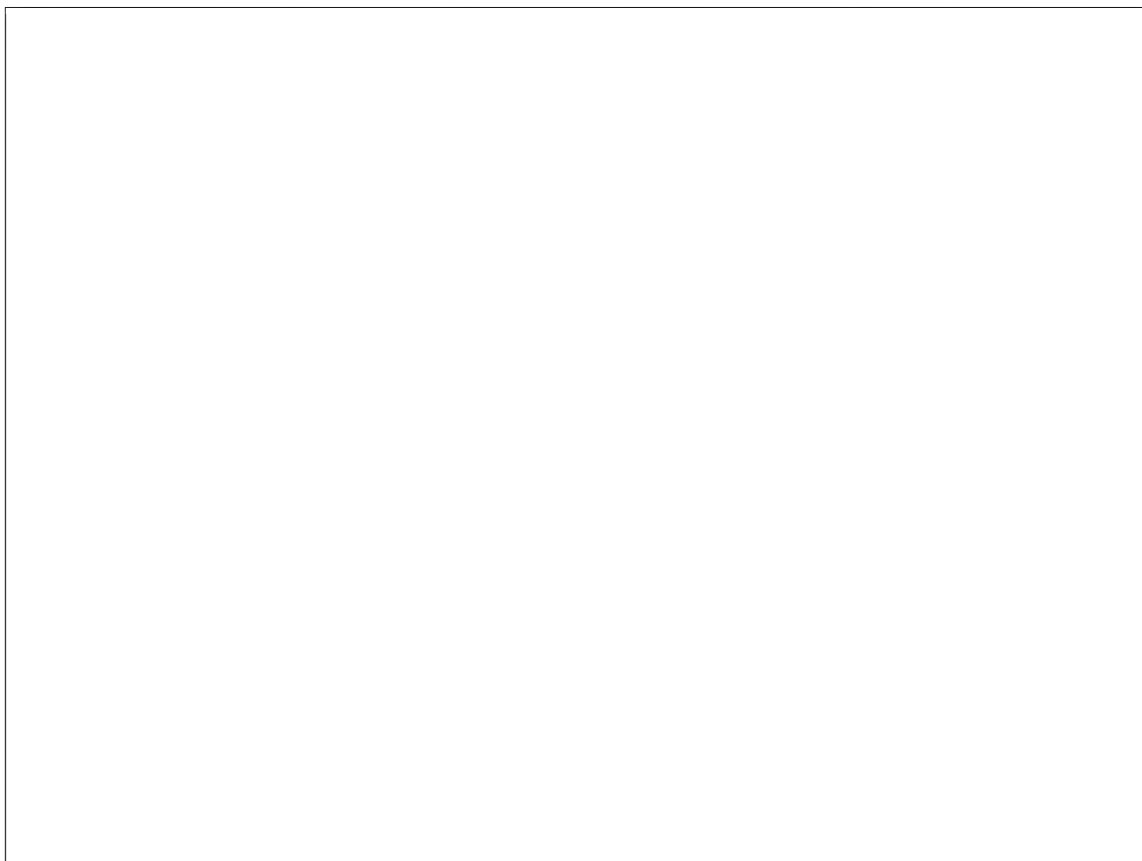
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TO PUT OUT SOME FEELERS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

BAGHDAD, HOWEVER, FEELS IT HAS HIM ON THE RUN AND APPEARS UNINTERESTED.

4. USSR-INDIA:

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5. NOTES:

A. IRAQ-KUWAIT: BAGHDAD HAS AGREED TO RECOGNIZE KUWAIT'S INDEPENDENCE, APPARENTLY ABANDONING ITS CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY OVER KUWAIT, IN EXCHANGE FOR A GIFT OF \$5.6 MILLION, A SIZABLE LOAN TO BE NEGOTIATED SHORTLY AND A PLEDGE THAT KUWAIT WILL ABROGATE ITS DEFENSE TREATY WITH THE UK "AT A SUITABLE TIME."

B. BOLIVIA: OUR EMBASSY IN LA PAZ BELIEVES THAT THE
EXTREME LEFTIST INFLUENCE IN PRESIDENT PAZ'S NEW CABINET--
COMPOSED ALMOST ENTIRELY OF EITHER LONG TIME OR NEW SUP-
PORTERS--HAS BEEN CUT AND THAT PAZ WILL RECEIVE INCREASED
SUPPORT IN HIS FIGHT TO REFORM THE TIN MINING INDUSTRY.